

against the law to climb a tree with spurs. I found many trees on the Northboro line spurred after the recent storm. The linemen use spurs instead of ladders. The spurs are two inches long, and go through the bark into the wood. The electric light linemen, those of the New England Telephone & Telegraph Co., and the linemen of the Worcester Consolidated Street Railway Co. take liberties in climbing the trees with spurs if no one is around to watch them. I do not want the workmen severely dealt with. All I want is this practice stopped."

Monast in his testimony made this admission: "I have been employed as lineman for the Worcester Consolidated Street Railway Co. since June. If I knew it was the law in this town not to climb a tree with spurs, I would not have done so. I climb trees in all other towns and nothing was ever said to me."

Of course the law is the same throughout the state but the linemen for the companies go just as far as local officers will permit. The only difference in Westboro is that the town has a tree warden with courage and intelligence to do his duty under the law.

A HARVARD UNIVERSITY FOREST.

HARVARD University has recently received the gift of a noble forest tract of over two thousand acres, located chiefly in Petersham. This came about through the offer of Mr. James W. Brooks of Petersham to sell for this purpose two thousand acres, which he has carefully husbanded, at a price much below its actual value. The purchase was finally made possible by the generosity of Mr. John S. Ames of North Easton, who gave the money needed for the purchase, and \$5,000 in addition for equipment and repairs of buildings. Adjoining lots and holdings aggregating between two and three hundred acres were also given outright by Mr. Brooks and Messrs. Edwin C. Dexter, Joseph C. Smith, Henry S. Bennett, Charles S. Waldo, William Simes and J. J. Higginson. We are glad to note that Messrs. Ames, Brooks, Dexter, Waldo, and Simes are all members of the Massachusetts Forestry Association, which may therefore take a just pride as well as a deep interest in this benefaction. This places the Harvard division of forestry in a position to do as good work as any school in the country, as may be seen from the description of the opportunities offered by the new property, as given by Professor Fisher:

"The forest included in this gift comprises what is probably the best body of timber now to be found on an equal area in Massachusetts. There are ten million board feet of merchantable lumber at present standing on the tract, nine-tenths of it white pine. This fine stand, however, occupies only about half the total area, the rest of which is covered by various types of hard wood

growth, younger crops of pine, and some open ground. The lay of the land, the features of which are a stretch of three miles of the Swift River Valley, the basins of two ponds, and the slopes of the well known Prospect Hill, makes the forest cover peculiarly rich and interesting, and some fifteen miles of excellent wood roads provide access to almost any portion of the tract. Several buildings, one of them a sort of dormitory built by a religious community, afford lodgment both for students and instructors and for the managing force. The greatest advantage, however, from the point of view both of forestry instruction and of practical lumbering, lies in the arrangement of the age-groups or generations of timber. It so happens that stands of various ages, from the small sapling to the mature tree, are almost equally represented on separate acres. This condition, taken with the ready accessibility and saleability of the timber, constitutes a unique opportunity for the successful practice of forestry. An approach to a continuous yield can be secured without cutting more than a small proportion of the whole area in any one year, and little by little the forest can be so organized as to offer an increasingly valuable demonstration of practical and scientific management.

The division of forestry, as a part of the new Graduate School of Applied Science, will supervise the running of the Petersham forest, and conduct a large part of its instruction on the spot. It will be the policy to carry on regular logging operations and other woods work looking toward the most productive handling of the forest, and in connection therewith to teach the elements and principles of technical forestry. So far as the business management goes, a certain portion of the mature timber will annually or periodically be cut under the direction of the division, and according to the method indicated by the condition of the particular stand. In addition, younger portions of the forest will gradually be brought into good growing condition by improvement cuttings, and the reproduction of blank and cut-over areas will be provided for either by planting or by natural seeding. All these operations will be part of a general working plan, the chief purpose of which is the profitable and practical utilization of the wood crop. Beginning with about three hundred thousand board feet per annum, it will be possible in the end to cut an annual yield of nearly half a million board feet. In other words, the bulk of the forest will represent as high a degree of forestry as is in this country feasible or financially justifiable. Selected areas, however, will be set apart for the purposes of research and the exemplification of various methods of reproduction cuttings, thinnings, studies of growth, and so on, which are practiced in Europe and desirable for students to know, but which are not usually applicable to American conditions. Thus, the function of the whole tract, from the point of view of the professional student, might be compared to that of the hospital in medical study or of the mine in mining engineering; an actual, working example on a liberal scale of the business in which the

forester expects employment, accompanied, in the case of the forest, by abundant chance for the study of the finer and more theoretic points of the science.

From the purely technical and educational sides, the opportunities at Petersham are no less remarkable. According to the probable arrangement of the curriculum, students who enter the Graduate School of Applied Science to study forestry will be in residence at Petersham during a considerable part of the year. There they will take up in the first of their regular two years' course, and largely in the field, all their elementary work including tree botany, the theory and practice of forest mensuration, and the whole subject of silviculture. This will lead them directly to their last year's work, which is mainly devoted to lumbering, forest engineering, and the study of forest production as applied to actual problems. The diseases of trees and other forms of injury, and the history of forest policy in the various countries will also form part of the work. In the course of all this training the students will have constant recourse, in problems and demonstrations, to the actual conditions to which their reading and lectures apply,— and that too, with the minimum waste of time, and under the supremely beneficial influence of a prolonged common residence apart from outside distractions. They will secure in combination the advantages of the German 'Meisterschule,' with its provision of practical experience under direction, and of the university forest school with its broad attention to theory and principle."

Massachusetts Forestry Association

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS AND NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS.

THE executive committee of the Massachusetts Forestry Association, after careful consideration extending over a period of several months, has formulated certain amendments to the by-laws of the association for presentation at the annual meeting on the fourteenth of December. These amendments make a somewhat radical change in the constitution of the executive board of the association. Hitherto this body has had twenty-one members, which might be increased to twenty-five. In the earlier years this proved satisfactory but as the work of the association has become larger and more definite this large committee has been found impracticable. The real labor and responsibility falls upon a few. Furthermore too much business has to be done through the roundabout process of reference to sub-committees.

The argument for the large committee — that it is more widely representative — fails in view of the necessity of regarding working efficiency rather than locality or representative character.